HEY, SUNNY.

LOOKS LIKE I CAME JUST IN TIME.

Chapter 10: Hanging With the Boys

NOT SO GOOD...

HE SEEMS TO BE IN PAIN.

YO, KEL.

HOW'S BASIL DOING?

HIS FOREHEAD FEELS HOT.

HE HAS A MILD FEVER.

WE HAVE TO TAKE HIM SOME-WHERE WARM QUICKLY.

LET'S GO.

COME ON, SUNNY.

SO KEL...

YEAH? WHAT'S UP?

A-AUBREY?! BUT I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE HER AT ALL...

SO HER HAIR IS PINK NOW... I SEE...

HUH?!

THAT WAS AUBREY!!! COULDN'T YOU TELL?!

WHO WAS THAT GIRL? SHE A FRIEND OR SOMETHING?

YEAH, WELL... SAVE IT FOR LATER. WE GOTTA TAKE CARE OF BASIL!

I SHOULD GO APOLOGIZE!

I DIDN'T SAY "HI" TO HER PROPERLY...

IT'S BEEN TOO LONG SINCE I'VE BEEN HOME...

WHAT HAPPENED WHILE I WAS GONE?

POLLY!

BASIL!!!

HE'S DRENCHED !!!

WHAT HAPPENED? IS HE OKAY?

NICE TO MEET YOU, POLLY.

WE FOUND YOUR GUY!!!

QUICK, COME INSIDE!

OF...OF COURSE!

HIS BODY NEEDS TO WARM UP, STAT.

COULD I BOTHER YOU TO GET BASIL SHOWERED AND FIND HIM A CHANGE OF CLOTHES?

DO YOU HAVE ANY MEDICINE TO REDUCE HIS FEVER?

YES, I DO!

I'LL GO GET IT RIGHT NOW.

HERO REALLY LOOKS LIKE A PROPER DOCTOR NOW, DOESN'T HE?

'SUP, SUNNY!

FRESH OUT OF THE SHOWER, I SEE.

YUP... JUST HERO BEING A REAL HERO AGAIN...

C'MON, LET'S NOT GET IN HIS WAY.

HE LOOKS LIKE HE'S IN THE ZONE...

CLACK

LOOK AT THIS...

I THINK THIS ONE IS OF YOU AND MARI.

IT'S ONE OF THE PHOTOS AUBREY DROPPED.

FLICK

RUB

YOU REALLY THINK BASIL COULD HAVE DONE THIS...?

I HAVE SO MANY QUESTIONS...

FOR BASIL... AND FOR AUBREY TOO.

EVERYONE'S CHANGED SO MUCH...

YOU KNOW... WHEN MARI PASSED AWAY...

THINGS SUDDENLY CHANGED FOR ALL OF US... BUT ESPECIALLY FOR HERO.

HERO... HE REALLY STOPPED CARING ABOUT EVERYTHING.

HE STOPPED TAKING CARE OF HIMSELF AND COULDN'T EVEN EAT.

HE DIDN'T WANT TO GET OUT OF BED FOR SCHOOL.

AND HE BARELY TALKED TO ANYONE OR EVEN LEFT HIS ROOM...

HE STOPPED BAKING... AND COOK-ING...

MOM AND DAD DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO EITHER... NOTHING WAS REALLY WORKING.

IT WAS LIKE THAT FOR ALMOST A YEAR.

HOW WE ALL MISSED HIM AND WAS WORRIED FOR HIM.

STUFF LIKE HOW WE WANTED HIM TO GET BETTER.

ONE NIGHT... I WENT OVER TO HIM AND STARTED SAY-ING STUFF.

I SAID THAT MARI WOULDN'T WANT TO SEE HIM LIKE THIS...

...HERO GOT ANGRY.

BUT HERO...

I THOUGHT I WAS HELP-ING HIM...

YOU THINK YOU KNOW HOW MARI WOULD FEEL?!?!

STOP PRE-TENDING TO CARE ABOUT ANY OF THIS...

JUST MIND YOUR OWN DAMN BUSINESS...

YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND A SINGLE THING, DO YOU?!?!

PLAY ALONG AND SMILE LIKE YOU ALWAYS DO...

LIKE THE CLUELESS IDIOT YOU ARE!!!!

HERO KEPT CRYING HARDER AND HARDER.

I WAS SCARED, BUT ALL I WANTED WAS TO CALM HIM DOWN.

THUMP

HERO... HE...

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!

BAM

I'M... I'M SORRY, HERO... I DIDN'T MEAN TO-

EVENTUALLY, MOM AND DAD RAN TO OUR ROOM...

THEY RUSHED OVER TO HUG HIM AND CALM HIM DOWN...

BUT... THEY COMPLETELY IGNORED ME.

...I DIDN'T EXIST AT ALL.

IT WAS AS IF...

...I THINK THAT'S WHERE HERO GOT HIS SENSES BACK.

BUT...

I'M... SO SORRY.

HE RAN TO ME AND HUGGED ME RIGHT AWAY. JUST KEPT APOLOGIZING OVER AND OVER...

HE GRADUALLY GOT BETTER AFTER THAT.

KNOWING EVERYTHING HE'S BEEN THROUGH... IT MAKES ME ESPECIALLY PROUD TO BE HIS BROTHER.

BUT HE STARTED FOCUSING ON SCHOOL A LOT MORE...

HERO HASN'T DONE MUCH COOKING SINCE THEN...

AND EVEN GOT ACCEPTED INTO THE BEST UNIVERSITY IN THE STATE!

WHAT'S WITH THE FACE, SUNNY?

HEY, YOU TWO.

LET'S SURPRISE HIM WITH IT LATER!!

WE GOT HIM *PAPA CHIP'S COOKBOOK* EARLIER, DIDN'T WE?

OH, THAT'S RIGHT!

BRO! YOU'RE HERE!!

IS BASIL GONNA BE ALRIGHT?

THINK YOU'RE SLICK, TALKING ABOUT ME BEHIND MY BACK?

SURE IS.

POOR GUY STILL HAS A FEVER, BUT HE SHOULD FEEL A LOT BETTER AFTER A GOOD REST.

SUNNY.

IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE I LAST SAW YOU...

I THINK IT'S BEEN FOUR YEARS NOW?

I HOPE THINGS HAVE BEEN GETTING BETTER... YOU DOING ALRIGHT IN SCHOOL?

YOU LOOK A BIT MORE GROWN UP, SUNNY.

SQUEEZE

YOINK

CAN'T I HUG MY OWN BROTHER?!?! I MISSED YOU, KEL!!

YOU GET ANY TALLER SINCE I'VE BEEN AWAY?

WHY SO GLUM, BRO?!?!

W-WHOA!!

WHAT'RE YOU DOING, HERO?!

DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO STOP DRINKING THAT STUFF? IT'S SO UNHEALTHY...

YOU BET I HAVE!

AND IT'S ALL THANKS TO ORANGE JOE!!!

OH, BY THE WAY...

ME AND SUNNY GOT YOU A GIFT!!!!

IT'S A COPY OF THAT *PAPA CHIP'S COOKBOOK* YOU USED TO HAVE!

REALLY? I STILL HAVE ALL THE RECIPES MEMORIZED THOUGH...

BUT SINCE YOU WENT THROUGH THE TROUBLE, MAYBE I CAN TRY COOKING SOMETHING TONIGHT...

YO, YOU MEAN IT?! LET'S HURRY HOME THEN!!!!

DRIP

WAKE UP...

DON'T WORRY... EVERYTHING WILL BE OKAY.

IT'S TIME TO WAKE UP NOW...

THERE YOU GO. ALL BETTER.

WAKE UP, SUNNY...

WAKE UP!!

THERE YOU ARE, OMORI!

YOU GOOD TO STAND?

CRUSH

ANYWAY, C'MON!!! LET'S GO ON AN ADVEN-TURE!!!

ERR... WAIT, ACTUALLY-

I'VE BEEN WALKING IN CIRCLES FOR HOURS!!!

GOOD THING I FINALLY FOUND YOU!!

WE ALL WENT INTO THAT BIG SHIP EARLIER...

BUT EVERYONE GOT SPLIT UP AND THEN, THEY KICKED ME OUT!!

GRAB

THINGS ARE ***REAL*** BAD, OMORI!!!

WE'RE IN BIG TROUBLE!!!! ALL OUR FRIENDS HAVE GONE MISSING!!!

IT'S WEIRD THOUGH...

I FEEL LIKE SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAS HAPPENED BEFORE...

EH... FORGET IT.

NONE OF THAT MATTERS RIGHT NOW.

WE GOTTA GO FIND OUR FRIENDS!!!

LET'S GO, OMORI!!!

GRIP

THEY'RE WAITING FOR US!

LAST RESORT